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Hidenori Kobayashi

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SoCAL IP LAW GROUP LLP
310 N. WESTLAKE BLVD. STE 120
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91362

EXAMINER

DICKERSON, CHAD S

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/623,987	Applicant(s) KOBAYASHI, HIDENORI	
	Examiner Chad Dickerson	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4 and 27-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7/21/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 9, filed 11/13/2007, with respect to the specification objections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of specification has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments, see page 10, filed 11/13/2007, with respect to the claim objections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objections of claims 3, 5, 6, 12 and 22 have been withdrawn.
3. Applicant's arguments, see page 11, filed 11/13/2007, with respect to the 101 rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 101 rejections of claims 17-26 have been withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments, see page 11, filed 11/13/2007, with respect to 112 2nd paragraph rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 2nd paragraph rejection of claim 6 has been withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments filed 11/13/2007 in regards to claim 5 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Amendment filed on 11/13/2007, the Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 5. The Applicant asserts that the claim features are not performed by the Geelen reference. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

When viewing the amendment, it appears that the amended language is used for more editorial purposes making the claim language clearer. However, the Geelen

reference still applies to the claim language. For example, the first feature states," receiving requests for information on recording paper from an information processing apparatus." Mentioned in the background of the invention, the image forming apparatus is constantly being monitored by the print monitor function on the workstation. The forming apparatus is constantly being queried, or asked, about the status of the printer, specifically is the paper tray needs to be refilled in the printer. The Examiner broadly interprets this function of the prior art as the workstation computer constantly asking, or requesting, of the printer if refilling the paper tray in the printer is necessary for a print job. With this interpretation, the Examiner clearly believes that this function is performed (see paragraphs [0002]-[0007]).

The second feature that states "transmitting information on recording paper that includes at least information on sizes of recording paper that is available for image forming corresponding to the requests for information from the information processing apparatus." In Geelen, the printer transmits information on recording paper sizes that are available in the printer to the host terminal when trouble occurs in the printer regarding the paper selection for a certain print job. The workstation of the user shows other types of paper that are available for printing in the printer instead of the paper that is not available in the printer for the current print job belonging to a user at a workstation (see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0011], [0048]-[0055]). This performs the above feature of transmitting information on the different types of paper that are available in the printer and this corresponds to the workstation computer constantly querying the printer for status information while submitting the user's print job.

The third feature states "receiving and executing print instructions from the aforementioned information processing apparatus after transmitting the aforementioned information on recording paper. In Geelen, when the user decides to use other paper besides the paper originally chosen for printing in the system, then the printer receives this instruction regarding the job and executes this instruction of using a different type of paper. This occurs after the printer has transmitted the information regarding the types of paper in the printer to the workstation (see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0048]-[0055]). With this interpretation, the Examiner clearly believes that this feature is performed. Therefore, the rejection of claim 5 is maintained.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In the Amendment filed on 11/13/2007, the Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 6. The Applicant asserts that the feature "transmitting print instructions from an information processing apparatus to a specified image forming apparatus" is not disclosed. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

In Sumiyama '799, it is clear that a computer transmits print instructions to a printer used in the system. In paragraphs [0005] and [0006], it clearly states a print job sent from a personal computer, considered as an information processing apparatus, to a selected printer on a network. The selected printer is a printer that is specified for printing. It is well known that the instructions regarding how a print job should be rendered is in the print job itself. Paragraph [0006] mentions that a print job has

instructions regarding a multiple paper size requirement in a print job that is sent to a printer. These two paragraphs alone disclose the feature mentioned above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Geelen et al (US Pub No 2002/0054322).

Re claim 5: Geelen et al discloses an image forming method of an image forming apparatus that executes an image forming operation based on instructions from an information processing apparatus, the method comprising:

receiving requests for information on recording paper from an information processing apparatus (i.e. when the print monitor function is activated, described in the background of the invention, the software used constantly queries the printer as far as information to the status of the apparatus. The query of the printer or monitoring is analogous to requesting information about the printer. The information queried or requested is information regarding the paper trays used in the printer. The printer receives these request or queries from the workstation of the user; see paragraphs [0002]-[0005]),

transmitting information on recording paper that includes at least information on sizes of recording paper that is available for image forming corresponding to the requests for information from the information processing apparatus (i.e. when the user is notified that certain printing paper is not available for processing a print job, the user can submit the option to use another type of paper to process the print job. Then the printer transmits information to the workstation of the other types of printing paper available for processing the print jobs in response to the user wanting to find out information on the paper available in the printer; see paragraphs [0051]-[0055]), and receiving and executing print instructions from the aforementioned information processing apparatus after transmitting the aforementioned information on recording paper (i.e. once the user enters the choice of the different paper type to process the print job, the printer receives and executes printing of that print job in the manner requested, once that print job is the current print job in the print queue. This occurs after the user has changed the choice of print paper type; see fig. 3-5; paragraphs [0034]-[0054]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumiyama et al (US Pub No 2002/0036799) in view of Edmonds '641 (US Pat No 2003/0161641).

Re claim 6: Sumiyama et al discloses an image forming instruction method of an image forming apparatus that executes image forming operation based on the instructions from an information processing apparatus, the method comprising:

transmitting print instructions from an information processing apparatus to a specified image forming apparatus (i.e. when a print job is submitted, an instruction to print the document with the specified paper sizes occur. In several examples in the background of the invention, the transmission of a print job is to be considered as a print command is given to respective printers to perform a print job. The PCs (11 and 12) in the system transmit print jobs to the printers in the system, and these PCs can be considered as information processing apparatuses; see fig. [0005]-[0008] and [0026]-[0033]),

determining whether recording is available or not based on the requested information on recording paper (i.e. the comparison of the image size to the paper size is performed in the printer and a determination is made whether the printers in the system can perform the printing relating to the image size matching the appropriate paper size; see figs. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0026]-[0034]),

sending print information from the information processing apparatus to the image forming apparatus when it determines recording is available (i.e. the PCs (11 or 12) and the server device are able to send the image data to the appropriate printer once the

determination is made that the paper available to print the image size is in the current printer being selected; see fig. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0026]-[0034]), and

notifying an operator that recording paper is not available when it determines recording paper is not available (i.e. the user is notified when the paper sizes are not available to fulfill the print job requirement of a certain image size, so that the user can replace or refill paper sizes in the system to process the print job; see fig. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0026]-[0034]).

However, Sumiyama '799 fails to teach for every print job request, requesting information on recording paper from the specified image forming apparatus corresponding to the transmitted print instruction.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Edmonds '641. Edmonds '641 discloses for every print job request, requesting information on recording paper from the specified image forming apparatus corresponding to the transmitted print instruction (i.e. in the system of Edmonds, in response to a user's request for a print job, the query routine in the system queries the printer for status of the media in the printer trays. This can occur for any and all print jobs submitted in the system of Edmonds. With the combination of Edmonds with the features of Sumiyama '799, the above feature is performed; see paragraphs [0015]-[0021]).

Therefore, in view of Edmonds '641, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to for every print job request, requesting information on recording paper from the specified image forming apparatus

corresponding to the transmitted print instruction in order to have the printer queried in response to a print job request (as stated in Edmonds '641 paragraph [0017]).

11. Claims 7-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 (US Pat No 6552813) and Edmonds (2003/0161641).

Re claim 7: Geelen et al discloses a stepped user alerts in a networked printer system comprising

receiving a print instruction for a print job, wherein the print instruction includes a selected paper type to be used for the print job and specifies an image forming apparatus to receive the print job (i.e. the user sends a print job to be printed to a printer and the instruction includes both the paper type to be used to output the print job and the specified printer to be used for forming the image on a certain paper size; see paragraph [0031]),

receiving the paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper are available in the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. when the printer determines that the current print job cannot be completely processed, a notice is given to the user regarding the availability of a certain paper size to process the print job. It specifies what paper is not currently in the printer, but if the user selects the "select other paper" option in the dialog box illustrated by figure 4, a list of paper sizes in the printer is presented to the user at the workstation. This performs the feature of receiving paper

availability information from the specified printer, wherein the paper information specifies the types of paper available in the printer; see figs. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0051]-[0054])

providing options to continue with the print job or to modify the print instruction if the paper availability information indicates that the specified paper type is unavailable in the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user accepts the information regarding the paper availability in figure 4, this tells the printing system to continue on in the process because the user will meet this need so that the printer can process this print job. When the user accepts the message in figure 4, this is analogous to providing the option of continuing with the print job. Also, the option to modify the print instruction is analogous to changing the printing paper selected to process the print job; see fig. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0046]-[0054]),

transmitting print instructions to the specified image forming apparatus after receiving an information on recording paper from the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user decides to use other paper besides the paper originally chosen for printing in the system, then the printer receives this instruction regarding the job from the workstation and executes this instruction of using a different type of paper. This occurs after the printer has transmitted the information regarding the types of paper in the printer to the workstation; see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0048]-[0055]).

However, Geelen et al fails to teach to cancel the print job.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses providing the option to cancel the print job (i.e. in traditional network

printers, at the point of an error, such as printer out of paper, the user has the option fix the problem by replacing the paper or by canceling the print job and resending the print job to another printer; see col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to provide the option to cancel a print job in order to have the user cancel the print job during an error in printing and resend the print job to another printing device (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

However, Geelen '322 in view of Yacoub '813 fails to teach requesting paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus before the print job is sent to the specified image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Edmonds 641. Edmonds '641 discloses requesting paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus before the print job is sent to the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. in the system, the query routine is used to query the printer of any paper information. The query of the printer can occur any moment in the printing process. In paragraph [0022], the query of the printer occurs before the print job is sent to the printer in order to prevent the user from trying to print a print job with a printer that is not capable at that present moment; see paragraphs [0015]-[0024]).

Therefore, in view of Edmonds '641, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method step of requesting paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus before the

print job is sent to the specified image forming apparatus in order to provide the user information prior to printing (as stated in Edmonds '641 paragraph [0022]).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

Geelen et al discloses the method of operating an information processing apparatus further comprising, sending the print job to the image forming apparatus if the paper availability information indicates that the specified paper type is available in the image forming apparatus (i.e. when the specified printing paper is available in the printing apparatus, the print job is sent to the specified printing apparatus when all of the preceding print jobs are processed before the current print job; see fig. 3; paragraphs [0035]-[0047]).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

Geelen et al discloses the method of operating an information processing apparatus further comprising, in the providing options step, providing an option to wait while the image forming apparatus is adjusted (i.e. when the print job being processed and this print job is the only print job in the print queue waiting to be processed, the printer will wait for the user a determined delay time. This determined delay time is given to the user, so that the user will be able to make his or her way to the printing device and load

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paper into the apparatus in order to process the print job; see figs. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0036]-[0054]).

Re claim 10: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach providing an option to select a different image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses providing an option to select a different image forming apparatus (i.e. when a printer is out of paper, the user may be able to replace the printer with the selected paper to print or cancel the job and select a different print job to process the print job; see col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to provide an option to select a different image forming apparatus in order to allow the user to fix an error by canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 11: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user resends a print job to another or different image forming apparatus, the print instruction is modified to be compatible to the option selected by the user to cancel the print job and printing the job using another apparatus; col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the option to modify the print instruction compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus in order to allow the user to fix an error by canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 12: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach before providing the option to select the different image forming apparatus, requesting paper availability information from at least one different image forming apparatus receiving the paper availability information from the different image forming apparatuses, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper is available in the different image forming apparatuses.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses before providing the option to select the different image forming apparatus,

requesting paper availability information from at least one different image forming apparatus (i.e. in the system, the server would request or query the network for information on printers available, or compute to find the next available printer appropriate for the processing of the print job that matches the user's preferences. The user's preferences may be the paper size or type available in the printers; see fig. 3; col. 4, lines 5-27; col. 6, lines 43-67 and col. 7, lines 1-37).

receiving the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses (i.e. the server receives information on printers available that are related to the user's preferences. The printers available are printers that are available and are different from the current printer that received a printer error in regards to performing the print job. The preferences are related to the paper types and sizes; see fig. 3; col. 4, lines 5-27; col. 6, lines 43-67 and col. 7, lines 1-37).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the information processing apparatus requesting paper availability information from at least one different image forming apparatus and receiving the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses before providing the option to select the different image apparatus in order to automatically

select a different printer closely complying with the print job preferences (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 2, lines 8-20).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach the option to select the different image forming apparatus is only provided if the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses indicates that the specified paper type is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the option to select the different image forming apparatus is only provided if the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses indicates that the specified paper type is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses (i.e. in the system, if a printer has an error, another printer is found. The other printer that is chosen is in accordance with the user's preferences, so that the print job is completed in the manner in which the user prefers. The specified preferences can be the paper type or size that the user desires to use as the output. The printer that is provided as the other option to use for printing is only offered if the user preferences, which is related to the paper availability information, is present in the printer chosen to be offered to the user as another option for printing; see figs. 3 and 4; col. 4, lines 5-27; col. 6, lines 43-67; col. 7, lines 1-37; col. 8, lines 29-67 and col. 9, lines 1-54).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the option to select a different image forming apparatus is only provided if the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses indicates that the specified paper type is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses in order to automatically select a different printer closely complying with the print job preferences (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 2, lines 8-20).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach providing options to direct the print job to one of the different image forming apparatuses.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses providing options to direct the print job to one of the different image forming apparatuses (i.e. when a printer is out of paper, the user may be able to replace the printer with the selected paper to print or cancel the job and select a different print job to process the print job. The user may choose another printer if the current printer used for printing is unavailable or is out of paper; see col. 1, lines 26-47 and col. 3, lines 6-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to providing options to direct the print job to one of the different image forming apparatuses in order to allow the user to fix an error by

canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 15: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user resends a print job to another or different image forming apparatus, the print instruction is modified to be compatible to the option selected by the user to cancel the print job and printing the job using another apparatus; col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the option to modify the print instruction compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus in order to allow the user to fix an error by canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach the selected paper type is a default paper type.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the selected paper type is a default paper type (i.e. the selected preferences chosen by the user can be chosen by default or changing through a dialog box or menu; see col. 4, lines 5-27 and col. 5, lines 1-13).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the selected paper type is a default paper type in order to allow the user's preferences to be set by default (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 5, lines 1-13).

Re claim 17: Geelen et al discloses a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for causing a processor to (i.e. in the printer, the control unit, considered as the processor with program code, works with the terminal (10) on the printer. The terminal can also be considered as the computer usable medium; see fig.1; paragraphs [0026]-[0035]) to

receive a print instruction for a print job which includes a selected paper type to be used for the print job and specifies an image forming apparatus to receive the print job (i.e. the user sends a print job to be printed to a printer and the instruction includes both the paper type to be used to output the print job and the specified printer to be used for forming the image on a certain paper size; see paragraph [0031]),

receive the paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper are available in the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. when the printer determines that the current print job cannot be completely processed, a notice is given to the user regarding the availability of a certain paper size to process the print job. It specifies what paper is not currently in the printer, but if the user selects the "select other paper" option in the dialog box illustrated by figure 4, a list of paper sizes in the printer is presented to the user at the workstation. This performs the feature of receiving paper availability information from the specified printer, wherein the paper information specifies the types of paper available in the printer; see figs. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0051]-[0054])

provide options to continue with the print job or to modify the print instruction if the paper availability information indicates that the specified paper type is unavailable in the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user accepts the information regarding the paper availability in figure 4, this tells the printing system to continue on in the process because the user will meet this need so that the printer can process this print job. When the user accepts the message in figure 4, this is analogous to providing the option of continuing with the print job. Also, the option to modify the print instruction is analogous to changing the printing paper selected to process the print job; see fig. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0046]-[0054]),

transmitting print instructions to the specified image forming apparatus after receiving an information on recording paper from the specified image forming apparatus

(i.e. when the user decides to use other paper besides the paper originally chosen for printing in the system, then the printer receives this instruction regarding the job from the workstation and executes this instruction of using a different type of paper. This occurs after the printer has transmitted the information regarding the types of paper in the printer to the workstation; see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0048]-[0055]).

However, Geelen et al fails to teach to cancel the print job.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses providing the option to cancel the print job (i.e. in traditional network printers, at the point of an error, such as printer out of paper, the user has the option fix the problem by replacing the paper or by canceling the print job and resending the print job to another printer; see col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to provide the option to cancel a print job in order to have the user cancel the print job during an error in printing and resend the print job to another printing device (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

However, Geelen '322 in view of Yacoub '813 fails to teach requesting paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus before the print job is sent to the specified image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Edmonds 641. Edmonds '641 discloses requesting paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus before the print job is sent to the specified image forming apparatus (i.e. in the system, the query routine is used to query the printer of any paper information. The

query of the printer can occur any moment in the printing process. In paragraph [0022], the query of the printer occurs before the print job is sent to the printer in order to prevent the user from trying to print a print job with a printer that is not capable at that present moment; see paragraphs [0015]-[0024]).

Therefore, in view of Edmonds '641, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method step of requesting paper availability information from the specified image forming apparatus before the print job is sent to the specified image forming apparatus in order to provide the user information prior to printing (as stated in Edmonds '641 paragraph [0022]).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

Geelen et al discloses the computer usable medium of claim 17 having computer readable program code embodied therein for causing the processor to send the print job to the image forming apparatus if the paper availability information indicates that the specified paper type is available in the image forming apparatus (i.e. when the specified printing paper is available in the printing apparatus, the print job is sent to the specified printing apparatus when all of the preceding print jobs are processed before the current print job; see fig. 3; paragraphs [0035]-[0047]).

Re claim 19: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

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Geelen et al discloses the computer usable medium of claim 17 having computer readable program code embodied therein for causing the processor to provide an option to wait while the image forming apparatus is adjusted (i.e. when the print job being processed and this print job is the only print job in the print queue waiting to be processed, the printer will wait for the user a determined delay time. This determined delay time is given to the user, so that the user will be able to make his or her way to the printing device and load paper into the apparatus in order to process the print job; see figs. 3 and 4; paragraphs [0036]-[0054]).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach causing the processor to provide an option to select a different image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses causing the processor to provide an option to select a different image forming apparatus (i.e. when a printer is out of paper, the user may be able to replace the printer with the selected paper to print or cancel the job and select a different print job to process the print job; see col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to cause a processor to provide an option to select a different image forming apparatus in order to allow the user to fix an error by

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canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user resends a print job to another or different image forming apparatus, the print instruction is modified to be compatible to the option selected by the user to cancel the print job and printing the job using another apparatus; col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the option to modify the print instruction compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus in order to allow the user to fix an error by canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 22: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach causing the processor to, before the option to select the different image forming apparatus is provided, request paper availability information from at least one different image forming apparatus receive the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses for causing the processor to, before providing the option to select the different image forming apparatus,

request paper availability information from at least one different image forming apparatus (i.e. in the system, the server would request or query the network for information on printers available, or compute to find the next available printer appropriate for the processing of the print job that matches the user's preferences. The user's preferences may be the paper size or type available in the printers; see fig. 3; col. 4, lines 5-27; col. 6, lines 43-67 and col. 7, lines 1-37).

receive the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses (i.e. the server receives information on printers available that are related to the user's preferences. The printers available are printers that are available and are different from the current printer that received a printer error in regards to performing the print job. The

preferences are related to the paper types and sizes; see fig. 3; col. 4, lines 5-27; col. 6, lines 43-67 and col. 7, lines 1-37).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have a processor cause a request for paper availability information from at least one different image forming apparatus and receive the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses, wherein the paper availability information specifies what types of paper is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses before providing the option to select the different image apparatus in order to automatically select a different printer closely complying with the print job preferences (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 2, lines 8-20).

Re claim 23: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach causing the processor to provide the option to select the different image forming apparatus only if the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses indicates that the specified paper type is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses causing the processor to provide the option to select the different image forming apparatus only if the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses indicates that the specified paper type is available in the

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respective different image forming apparatuses (i.e. in the system, if a printer has an error, another printer is found. The other printer that is chosen is in accordance with the user's preferences, so that the print job is completed in the manner in which the user prefers. The specified preferences can be the paper type or size that the user desires to use as the output. The printer that is provided as the other option to use for printing is only offered if the user preferences, which is related to the paper availability information, is present in the printer chosen to be offered to the user as another option for printing; see figs. 3 and 4; col. 4, lines 5-27; col. 6, lines 43-67; col. 7, lines 1-37; col. 8, lines 29-67 and col. 9, lines 1-54).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to cause the processor to provide the option to select a different image forming apparatus only if the paper availability information from the respective different image forming apparatuses indicates that the specified paper type is available in the respective different image forming apparatuses in order to automatically select a different printer closely complying with the print job preferences (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 2, lines 8-20).

Re claim 24: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach causing the processor to provide options to direct the print job to one of the different image forming apparatuses.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses causing the processor to provide options to direct the print job to one of the different image forming apparatuses (i.e. when a printer is out of paper, the user may be able to replace the printer with the selected paper to print or cancel the job and select a different print job to process the print job. The user may choose another printer if the current printer used for printing is unavailable or is out of paper; see col. 1, lines 26-47 and col. 3, lines 6-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to cause the processor to provide options to direct the print job to one of the different image forming apparatuses in order to allow the user to fix an error by canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 25: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen '322 fails to teach the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the option to modify the print instruction is compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus (i.e. when the user resends a print job to another or different image forming apparatus, the print instruction is modified to be

compatible to the option selected by the user to cancel the print job and printing the job using another apparatus; col. 1, lines 26-47).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the option to modify the print instruction compatible with the option to select a different image forming apparatus in order to allow the user to fix an error by canceling a print job and resend the print job to another apparatus (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 1, lines 26-47).

Re claim 26: The teachings of Geelen et al in view of Yacoub '813 and Edmonds '641 are disclosed above.

However, Geelen et al fails to teach the selected paper type is a default paper type.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Yacoub '813. Yacoub '813 discloses the selected paper type is a default paper type (i.e. the selected preferences chosen by the user can be chosen by default or changing through a dialog box or menu; see col. 4, lines 5-27 and col. 5, lines 1-13).

Therefore, in view of Yacoub '813, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the selected paper type is a default paper type in order to allow the user's preferences to be set by default (as stated in Yacoub '813 col. 5, lines 1-13).

Conclusion

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12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

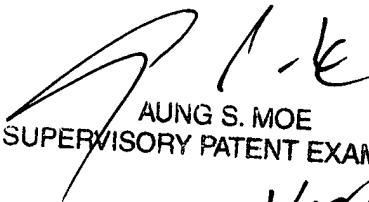
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Dickerson whose telephone number is (571)-270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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CD/ 
Chad Dickerson
January 14, 2008


AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1/18/08